(b) the initial cost of the project;

(c) the details of private sector/multinational who joined with State Government in respective years and the equity participation thereof; and

(d) the latest position, cost of Haldia Petrochemical complex and PFI's contribution, State Government contribution and promoter's contribution?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Threat of Earthquake

3116. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to sate:

(a) whether threat of earthquake has been increasing in various parts of the country;

(b) the steps taken or being taken to prevent the threat of earthquake; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Occurrence of earthquake is random in nature and there is no clear indication of any increase or decrease or occurrence of earthquakes in different parts of the country.

(b) and (c) Prediction of earthquakes with reasonable degree of accuracy and on a scientific basis with regard to space, time and magnitude has not so far become possible. There is also no proven methodology for preventing occurrence of earthquakes. Government is trying to minimise the extent of damage and destruction by popularising earthquake resistant construction practices and through community education programmes.

Veterinary Hospitals

3117. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down for opening veterinary hospitals and breeding centres in the country and the number of cattle prescribed for a village;

(b) the details of veterinary hospitals and breeding centres in the country;

(c) whether the Government have provided any financial assistance for setting up of veterinary hospitals and breeding centres in the National Capital Territory of Delhi during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof, year-wise;

(e) whether there is any proposal to increase the number of veterinary hospitals and breeding centres in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (f) The information is being gathered from the States and Union Territory Governments and will be placed on the Table of the House.

[English]

Permission to Corporate Sector in Agriculture

3118. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Corporate agriculture comes to town" appearing in the 'Business Standard', New Delhi dated July 14, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the interested companies working on the schemes would permit them to bring upward of 200 acres of land each;

(d) the expected funding of these projects by the World Bank; and

(e) the broad features of these projects for agricultural production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) No information on the subject is available in the Ministry of Agriculture.

Welfare of Blinds

3119. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have provided sufficient grants to all the institutions who applied for the welfare of blind persons during 1996-97;

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned and number of institutions benefited, State-wise; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?